

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 9-10, 17-20, 22-24, 28, 30-37, 42-45, 50-60, 62-66, 70, 71, 77, 139-144 and 146-151 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 8, 21, 25, 29, 47, 74, 75, 78-79, 145 and 152-156 were withdrawn by the Examiner.

Support for the amendments is in the claims as originally filed and the specification, for example, in Applicant's published application US 2003/0089891 at paragraph [0023] ("*...inhibit microbial growth within the composition and minimize deposition of microbes onto polished metal features and planarized surfaces...*"), at paragraph [0026] ("*...Target contaminants of which the cleaning composition and method of the present invention are useful in removing include...*"), and at paragraph [0028] ("*...causing the particles to form a dispersion in the cleaning solution...*;" and in Claim 31).

In Claim 31, the phrase "*cleaning agent capable of dispersing alumina or silica slurry particles and supporting microbial growth*" defines the character and properties of the cleaning agent. That phrase does not define the composition as containing slurry particles.

Claims 77-79 (depending from Claim 62) have been amended to clarify that the "*composition is capable of dispersing*" metal particles or abrasive slurry particles. (Claim 62, as amended, defines the composition *as capable of removing* residual particles from the wafer.)

The amendments are intended to merely clarify the claims, and the scope of the claims is intended to be the same after the amendment as it was before the amendment. No new matter is added with the amendments to the claims.

The allowance of Claims 42-45, 50-54, 60, 63-65, 146 and 149 is acknowledged. It is noted that Claim 47 (withdrawn) depends from and includes all the limitations of allowed Claim 42.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) (Branham)

The Examiner rejected the claims as follows:

- a) Claims 1-5, 10, 18-20, 23, 28, 31-34, 37, 55-57, 62, 66, 70, 71, 77, 139-144, 147, 148, 150 and 151 as anticipated by US 2003/0022568 (Branham).
- b) Claims 6, 35, 36, 58 and 59 under Section 103(a) as obvious over Branham in view of Jetcheva (USP 4,655,955).
- c) Claim 17 as obvious over Branham in view of Vaartstra (USP 6,242,165).
- d) Claims 9, 22 and 30 as obvious over Branham in view of Lyons (US 2004/0214797).

Branham discloses a polymer formulation useful as a binder material that can be combined with an aqueous wetting composition that can contain an insolubilizing agent and a variety of additives. The Examiner cites (a) *Jetcheva* in the Abstract— as disclosing ammonium citrate as a citric acid salt, (b) *Vaarstra* at col. 6, lines 17-18¹ – for particularly disclosing ammonium hydroxide as a buffering agent, and (c) *Lyons* in the Abstract² – for disclosing ammonium sorbate as a sorbic acid salt.

The claims have been amended to further define the cleaning compositions according to the amounts of the cleaning agent, antimicrobial agent and/or solvent.

Branham, either alone or combined with any of the secondary references, does not teach or suggest Applicant's compositions as defined in the claims by pH of about 5-6.5 and a cleaning agent, antimicrobial agent and solvent at the recited amounts.

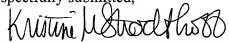
Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Extension of Term.

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. If any extension is required and/or any fee is due, please consider this a petition therefor and charge the required fee to Account No. 23-2053.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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¹ It is noted that Vaarstra does not state ammonium hydroxide as a buffering agent. See col. 6, lines 17-19 ("*Other additional components ... buffering agents (e.g., ammonium fluoride (NH₄F), tetramethyl ammonium fluoride (Me₄NF))...*").

² Lyons discusses sorbic acid at paragraph [0022] ("*The term "sorbic acid" as used herein...*").